

**PATENT**  
**IBM Docket No. CR9-98-062**

**REMARKS**

**Status:**

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the teaching of U. S. Pat. No. 5,926,180 to Simamura. Claims 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 9 and 16 have no indicated disposition; but, are nonetheless canceled, without prejudice, to avoid raising new issues.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are hereby canceled, without prejudice. Claims 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20 are presented for reconsideration in view of amendments that remove the objected-to dependencies on unallowed claims. Amended claims 7 and 14 are presented for reconsideration as is explained below.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 3 which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if recast in independent form. Claim 14 has been amended to depend on claim 10 which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if recast in independent form.

**Analysis:**

This reply is believed to place this case in condition for allowance without raising new issues. The rejected claims are canceled, except claims 7 and 14, which are amended, respectively, to be dependent on a claim indicated to be allowable. The claims (claims

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3-6, 10-13 and 17-20) objected to for improper dependencies on unallowed claims are amended to overcome those objections.

As regards claim 17, it is recast based on claim 15, for consistency as a method claim, with the limitation of claim 16 included.

In accordance with the above analysis, it is believed that this amendment places this Application in condition for allowance without raising new issues; and, entry of this amendment along with notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicant's attorney would welcome a call from the Examiner, to discuss this opportunity to move the subject Application to issue (see below for telephone no. and e-mail address).

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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